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THE DETECTION OF A POPISH CHEAT: OR A

True Account of the Invention and Discovery of the Story of a Boys conversing with the DEVIL, which has lately occasioned so much Noise and so many Reports.

A Boy Named *James Day*, Aged about eighteen years, formerly bred in the *Blew Boy-Hospital*, and now an Apprentice to *Roger Day*, Smith, on *Lazy-Hill* in *St. Andrew's* Parish, *Dublin*, seemed to be troubled in Mind, and gave out, That he was in League with the Devil, which was the more easily believ'd, by reason of an unusual Sullenness of Temper, and distraction of Look that appear'd in him. Mr. *Travers* Minister of the Parish hearing of such a one Pray'd for in his Church, enquir'd after him, and made him a visit on *Monday* the 17th. of *June* last; he found him as he had heard, and discoursing him, had from him the following Story; which is related as near as is possible, in the Boy's own Words.

Viz. That some time since, he had made Complaint to a Journey-man Smith, who wrought under his Master, that he wanted five or six Shillings to spend among some Friends in the Country, whom he was minded to visit; and that the said Man answered him, *That if he shook hands with the Old Gentleman, he should never want Money*; whereupon he asked him how he should beget an acquaintance with him; and that the man told him, *The way was to go into a private Place, and write some Prayer to him in his own Blood*; and that accordingly he went on *Saturday* the 8th. day of *June*, into a Field near *St. Patricks Well*, and writ in his own Blood these Words; *In the Name of the Devil, I command you to appear*; and that immediately there came to him a Tall Slender Black Man, of a thin Visage, and a thick Speech; and that they conferred together for some time; and that the said black man made him great Offers of Money, and Wordly Goods, if he would become his Servant; particularly, That he should win at all sorts of Game; and that after they parted, he went immediately by some secret Direction, to the Lottery on *Essex-Bridge*, where he won that evening Eleven Shillings and Four Pence: That on *Saturday* the 15th. day of *June*, he went in the morning to *St. Patricks Well* for a Pitcher of Water, and in his return homewards, there met him of a sudden, a man in colour'd Cloths, who told him, That there was a Gentleman in the fields near the Gallows desir'd to speak with him, and bid him bring with him a Knife, a peice of Paper, and a Pen; and that accordingly he did go to those fields, and there met the Devil, and that after a good while Conference with him, he agreed to Sell himself to him for ever, in consideration of seventeen years Life and Happiness, and that pursuant to this Agreement, the Boy was writing a Lease, or Deed, of Sale in his own Blood, having cut his Finger for that purpose; but when he had written part of it, the Devil bid him tare it, for that he himself could do it better and faster; and accordingly the Devil did draw up a Lease, and read it to the Boy, wherein he was assured of Gold and Silver in great plenty, but some of the Words he could not understand; and that the Devil would have had him sign the said Lease at that time, which he was unwilling to do, without some further time to consider it, but appointed to meet him again the *Saturday* following for the perfecting of it; and that the Devil carry'd him that afternoon to a House that look't like a Tavern, he knows not where, but that they had there Sack and March Beer sugar'd, with other Liquours; and that all the while they were drinking, they sat one on each side of a Table hand in hand, the Devil pressing him all the time to sign the said Lease; and that they had no Drawer, or Attendant to supply them with Drink, but that notwithstanding, they drank plentifully, the Cups were always full; and that there were in the said Tavern a great many people of all sorts, little and big: When they were parted thence, the Boy came home Frighted and Disorder'd as 'twas thought, and he told these things to his Master and others of the Neighbourhood, telling them withal, That all their Advice, and that all they could do for him would be in vain. For that he must necessarily go to the Devil the *Saturday* following, according to the appointment that was made.

There were some Circumstances that render'd the foregoing Story somewhat probable, for the Journy-Man Smith confess'd, That he had said something to the Boy of *Shaking hands with the Old Gentleman*, tho in Jest. There was a visible Cash or two in one of his Fingers: There appeared in him some symptoms of a disturb'd mind; and several Persons of Credit went with him on *Sunday* the 16th. to the field near the Gallows, where he said he had been in Conference with the Devil the day before, and there they found the torn Paper written in blood as he had said, and putting the Scraps together, they could read the date of the Month, and Year, and the words *Promise* and *Law*, and some other words; upon these Accounts, some Credit was given to this Relation for three or four days.

On *Wednesday* the 19th. of *June*, This Boy's Uncle *Patrick Dawson* a Papiſt, who lives in *York-ſtreet*, ſent a Coach for him, and had him brought to his Houſe, where he ſtaid ſome time; however he returned home to his Maſters in the evening, and told his Maſter, that he was reſolved to ſerve him no longer, but to bind himſelf to his Uncle *James Tuit*, (a Papiſt) Wooſted Comber in *Thomas Court*, and that he would turn Papiſt, for that he was ſure, no one but a Prieſt could do him any good in that condition, and that Mr. *Travers* need not trouble himſelf any more with him, but would tell them nothing of what occaſion'd this new ſudden change in him: As ſoon as Mr. *Travers* was informed of this by the Boy's Maſter the next morning, he went to him, and with much ado, prevail'd upon him to to diſcover what had happen'd to him the evening before at his Uncle *Dawſons*, and 'twas as follows.

When he firſt went into the Houſe, he heard his Aunt *Dawſon* bid a little Girl run with all ſpeed and fetch (as he underſtood) Father *Barnwell*, and that ſoon after a Perſon came in, in the appearance and dreſs of an Old Woman, with a Friz: Mantle like a Fryars Habit, who told him, That ſhe had been Dead, and was Riſen from the Dead, and that while ſhe was Dead, ſhe was in Heaven, where ſhe ſaw and convers'd with God, and Chriſt, the Angels, the Virgin Mary and Saints, and that they all told her, there was no Salvation any where but in the Church of *Rome*; and that ſhe ſaw King *Charles* II. in Heaven, and that the reaſon of his being there was his dying a Papiſt; that there was great Virtue in Holy Water, and ſhew'd him a *Crucifix*, and ordered him to hang one at out his neck as a conſtant Charm; with theſe and ſuch like perſwaſions ſhe tempted the Boy to change his Religion and turn to Maſs, but the Boy made anſwer, that he could not be benefited by the Maſs Service, it being in Latin, which he did not underſtand; but ſhe told him the Maſs was Celebrated in as good Engliſh as was uſed, either in Church or Meeting: Upon this, Mr. *Travers* went immediately to *Patrick Dawſon's* Houſe, and they confeſs'd that ſuch a Woman had been there that evening in the Boy's company, and that ſhe lived in the end of the Town, but when he was earneſt to have her produced, they deny'd they knew where to find her, that ſhe was only a begger Woman that came in by accident, tho they own'd then they had ſeen her there ſeveral times before, and knew her by ſight very well.

This Paſſage made it reaſonable to believe, that the Story had been deſignedly forg'd: And accordingly due care and diligence were apply'd for the ſifting and finding out of the matter; which was done with good ſucceſs, for on *Friday* the 21ſt. day of *June*, the Boy diſcloſed the whole Plot, and gave his Confeſſion; Firſt, to Mr. *Travers* in writing, and afterwards upon Oath, to Sir *Humphery Jerviſe*.

The ſubſtance of his Confeſſion was as follows; That his Uncle *James Tuit*, and *Patrick Dawſon*, with their Wives, being all Papiſts, had frequently Adviſ'd and Preſs'd this Boy their Nephew, to come over to their Religion; and that on the 8th day of *June*, the ſaid *James Tuit* did firſt put the foregoing Story in the Boys Head; and that afterwards the ſame day, his Aunt *Joan Tuit* did carry him to the Popiſh Chappel at *St. Audoen's* Arch, where the doors being ſhut, and none preſent beſides her and one Man; two ſuppoſed Prieſts, or Fryars, repeated to him the very ſame Story and cauſed him to ſwear by the *Maſs Book* to relate and ſtand by it, and they themſelves ſwore by the ſame Book, as alſo *Joan Tuit* and the other man, never to diſcover the ſecret.

He Confeſſes farther, that his Uncle *James Tuit* did many times tempt him to leave his Maſter *Roger Day's* ſervice and live with him, promiſing him that he ſhould never be without pence in his Pocket, that he was directed to leave a torn Paper written in blood, in the field near the Gallows, and to carry ſome people thither to find it, as alſo to ſay he had won the *Money* at the Lottery as aforeſaid, as Confirmations to the ſtory, that the grand deſign of this contrivance was to carry him to *St. John's* Well, on *Sunday* the 23d of *June*, being *St. Johns* Eve (the day before having been appointed to perfect the Leaſe to the Devil) and that he was to return on *Monday* in his right mind, thro' the miraculous Virtue of that Well. He prays God to forgive his Uncles and Aunts, and thoſe Prieſts, and promiſes amendment of life and diligence in his Maſters ſervice for the future: He owns, that the Journey-man Smith ſaid nothing more to him, only that of *Shaking Hands with the Old Gentleman*, and that 'twas in Drollery.

Upon this Declaration of the Boy, *Sir Humphery Jerviſe* iſſued his Warrants immediately that ſame day, for the Apprehending the abovenamed *Dawſon* and *Tuit*: with their Wives, who were all accordingly Apprehended, and bound over to the next Quarter Seſſions, which have not been yet held; in the mean time, they do not diſcover either the Prieſts, or the Old Woman; however, *Joan Tuit* confeſſes, that ſhe did intend to carry the Boy with her, as he ſaid, to *St. John's* Well; which beſides the Boys Oath, is a ſtrong preſumption, that his Confeſſion is real in the other parts of it, and that ſhe knows the whole matter.

This Publication has been hitherto deferr'd, in hopes of finding out the Prieſts Names, but 'tis believed an Indulgence will legitimate a falſe Oath, rather than the holy Fathers ſhould be brought to any diſgrace or puniſhment, This is one fair proof of the corrupt practices, and Prieſtcraft of the Roman Church; 'tis a good ſpecimen of their pretended Miracles, and it ſhews evidently, that they themſelves ſuſpect very much the Truth and Soundneſs of their Religion, when they are forced to fly to ſuch baſe Tricks and Frauds, for the ſupport of it: 'Tis hoped that this Diſcovery will Help to awaken and forwarn all Proteſtants to beware of the Deceitfulneſs of Popery; and if the Papiſts were not Hoodwinked with an implicite Faith, and enſlaved in an abſolute Subjection to the Impoſition of their Clergy, they would ſoon diſcern abundant Reaſon to Renounce ſuch Unchriſtian Principles, and embrace the Pure and Sincere Religion of the Reformation.

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